MASS. G67.2:M 72

UMASS/AMHERST

312066 0273 8293 9

MASSACHUSETTS:

BRINGING DOWN THE BARRIERS

STATE OF THE STATE

ADDRESS

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
COLLECTION

JUL 8 1987

University of Massachusetts
Depository Copy

GOVERNOR MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS

DELIVERED BEFORE BOTH HOUSES
OF THE GENERAL COURT OF
MASSACHUSETTS

JANUARY 8, 1987

I CAN'T BEGIN TO DESCRIBE TO YOU IN WORDS THE JOY AND GRATITUDE THAT KITTY AND I AND OUR FAMILY BRING TO THIS, OUR THIRD INAUGURAL--THE FIRST, I MIGHT ADD, WHEN I HAVE NOT BEEN FORCED TO TAKE A FOUR YEAR VACATION BEFORE RETURNING TO THE STATE HOUSE.

FOUR YEARS AGO, THE PEOPLE OF THIS COMMONWEALTH GAVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY RARE IN AMERICAN POLITICS--A SECOND CHANCE. THEY ASKED YOU AND ME TO RESTORE INTEGRITY AND COMPETENCE AND COMPASSION TO STATE GOVERNMENT. AND I SAID ON THAT DAY IN JANUARY OF 1983 THAT IF THERE WAS ONE THING I HOPED WE COULD DO <u>TOGETHER</u> IT WAS TO MAKE THE CITIZENS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH <u>PROUD</u> OF THEIR STATE GOVERNMENT.

I BELIEVE WE HAVE DONE THAT--NOT PERFECTLY, BECAUSE WE ARE HUMAN BEINGS WITH ALL THE IMPERFECTIONS THAT MORTALS HAVE--NOT COMPLETELY, BECAUSE WE STILL HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO COMPLETE AND NEW WORLDS TO CONQUER--

<u>BUT PRIDE IS BACK IN MASSACHUSETTS</u>.

OUR PEOPLE ARE PROUD AND OPTIMISTIC AND CONFIDENT ABOUT THEIR COMMONWEALTH AND ABOUT ITS FUTURE.

AND THIS LEGISLATURE HAS HAD MUCH TO DO WITH ALL THAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS. TO THE SPEAKER, TO THE SENATE PRESIDENT, TO EACH OF YOU WHO HAS SERVED WITH ME AND TO THOSE WHO BEGIN YOUR LEGISLATIVE CAREERS THIS WEEK, MY SPECIAL THANKS. THIS HAS BEEN A TEAM EFFORT IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD--AND I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU ALL.

AND TODAY, AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO A BRIGHT AND EXCITING FUTURE, I AM GRATEFUL TO THE PEOPLE OF MASSACHUSETTS FOR GIVING ME A NEW TEAMMATE, ONE WHO IS HERSELF A MAKER OF MASSACHUSETTS HISTORY AND A TRAILBLAZER INTO NEW TERRITORY. TO EV MURPHY, A HEARTFELT WELCOME ABOARD.

WE BEGIN 1987 WITH SOME IMPORTANT AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

TO ERADICATE THE SHADOW OF HOMELESSNESS THAT HAUNTS THE NEEDY AND TO EXTEND THE DREAM OF HOME OWNERSHIP TO YOUNG FAMILIES, WE MUST EXPAND OUR EFFORTS TO REHABILITATE EVERY ABANDONED UNIT OF HOUSING IN THIS COMMONWEALTH AND BUILD THOUSANDS MORE AT A COST THAT OUR PEOPLE CAN AFFORD.

TO SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH OF EVERY MASSACHUSETTS FAMILY, WE MUST APPROVE LEGISLATION THAT CAN PROTECT US FROM THE DANGERS OF SOLID AND HAZARDOUS AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE AND GUARANTEE ALL MASSACHUSETTS FAMILIES CLEAN AND SAFE DRINKING WATER.

FOR THE THOUSANDS OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE DEVOTED THEIR PROFESSIONAL LIVES TO PUBLIC SERVICE, WE ARE ON THE THRESHOLD OF SWEEPING PENSION REFORM THAT WILL PROVIDE THEM WITH THE RETIREMENT SECURITY THEY HAVE EARNED.

WE HAVE ALREADY MADE A SOLEMN COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE CARE AND SUPPORT FOR THOSE AMONG US AFFLICTED BY MENTAL ILLNESS--TOO MANY OF WHOM ARE BARELY SURVIVING IN SHELTERS FOR THE HOMELESS. THIS YEAR WE MUST APPROVE THE CAPITAL RESOURCES WE NEED TO TRANSFORM OUR MENTAL HOSPITALS INTO FIRST-CLASS INSTITUTIONS AND TO BUILD HOUSING THAT CAN PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT FOR EMOTIONALLY-TROUBLED CITIZENS. THEY, TOO, CAN AND SHOULD HAVE THE CHANCE TO LIVE THEIR LIVES WITH DIGNITY

AND NOW THAT THIS LEGISLATURE HAS APPROVED A STRONG AND COURAGEOUS PRISON EXPANSION BILL, WE MUST FINISH THE JOB BY ENSURING THAT THE PUNISHMENT OF THOSE WHO COMMIT VIOLENCE AGAINST OTHERS IS TOUGH AND FAIR AND CONSISTENT.

BUT THIS IS A TIME TO DO MORE THAN SIMPLY COMPLETE THE GOOD WORK OF THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

IT IS A TIME FOR DREAMS, A TIME FOR VISION.

IT IS A TIME WHEN WE HAVE IT WITHIN OUR POWER TO CREATE A FUTURE OF UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITY--A FUTURE IN WHICH EVERY MASSACHUSETTS CITIZEN ENJOYS THE KIND OF OPPORTUNITY WE EACH WANT FOR OURSELVES AND FOR OUR FAMILIES.

IT IS A GOLDEN TIME IN A GOLDEN STATE--A TIME WHEN THE GLOW OF OPPORTUNITY THAT LIGHTS THIS COMMONWEALTH CAN SHINE IN EVERY HEART AND EVERY HOME, ILLUMINATING A FUTURE WHERE THE DREAMS AND ASPIRATIONS OF EACH OF US AND EACH OF OUR CHILDREN CAN FIND FULFILLMENT.

I BELIEVE THAT DREAM, THAT VISION IS WITHIN OUR GRASP.

AND IF THERE IS ANY STATE IN THE NATION THAT CAN TRANSFORM THAT VISION INTO REALITY, IT IS MASSACHUSETTS.

NOT AS AN ACT OF CHARITY--NOT SIMPLY BECAUSE OUR HEARTS GO OUT TO PEOPLE IN NEED, IMPORTANT THOUGH THAT MAY BE--BUT BECAUSE WE UNDERSTAND THAT ALL OF US LIVE RICHER AND BETTER LIVES IN A SOCIETY IN WHICH ALL OF US HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE THE BEST THAT IS IN US--AND MAKE A REAL CONTRIBUTION TO OUR COMMUNITY.

IF WE ARE TO MAKE THAT VISION REAL--IF WE ARE TO OPEN UP THE DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY TO ALL OF OUR CITIZENS--THEN WE MUST COMMIT OURSELVES TO TWO FUNDAMENTAL GOALS--

FIRST, THE BUILDING OF AN ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT THAT IS CREATIVE; THAT IS INNOVATIVE; THAT IS COMPETITIVE; AND THAT CAN PROVIDE US WITH THE MEANS OF CREATING OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY CITIZEN AND EVERY FAMILY IN THE COMMONWEALTH, AND

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2013

http://archive.org/details/massachusettsbri00mass

SECOND, AN ALL-OUT ASSAULT ON THE CAUSES OF POVERTY AND DEPENDENCY--NOT JUST THE TREATMENT OF THEIR SYMPTOMS AND CONSEQUENCES.

THESE TWO GOALS GO HAND IN HAND--AND IN MASSACHUSETTS WE UNDERSTAND THAT. FOR WE BELIEVE THAT WE CAN NOT ONLY CREATE A BIGGER PIE BUT THAT WE CAN MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR EVERYONE TO GET TO THE TABLE AND MAKE HIS OR HER OWN CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS WE HAVE ACHIEVED AND THE PRIDE WE FEEL.

THAT IS WHY OUR CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO ECONOMIC GROWTH AND GOOD JOBS AND A COMPETITIVE ECONOMY IS SO IMPORTANT. AND THANKS TO OUR EFFORTS OVER THE PAST DECADE, WE HAVE A WONDERFUL FOUNDATION ON WHICH TO BUILD.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO NURTURE THE SPIRIT OF INNOVATION.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO BUILD ALLIANCES BETWEEN AND AMONG THE BUSINESS AND LABOR AND EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITIES.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO INVEST IN EDUCATION--AT ALL LEVELS AND FOR ALL AGES.

WE NEED A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN APPLIED TECHNOLOGY AND PRODUCTIVITY THAT CAN HELP TURN OUR OLDER MATURE INDUSTRIES INTO MODERN MANUFACTURING ENTERPRISES IN WHICH THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY AND GROWING COOPERATION BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AND LABOR CAN MAKE US COMPETITIVE WITH ANYONE IN THE WORLD.

WE NEED SMALL BUSINESS INCUBATORS WHERE YOUNG AND PROMISING ENTREPRENEURS CAN COME TOGETHER TO BUILD THE DIGITALS AND DATA GENERALS OF THE FUTURE.

WE NEED A FIRST-CLASS NETWORK OF CUSTOMIZED TRAINING PROGRAMS THAT WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO OPEN UP THE DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY TO

THOUSANDS OF MASSACHUSETTS WORKERS WHO ARE ENTERING A FUTURE IN WHICH THERE MAY BE, QUITE LITERALLY, MORE JOBS THAN PEOPLE TO FILL THEM. AND WHEN HAS ANY STATE EVER HAD AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE THAT IN OUR LIFETIMES--OR IN ALL OUR HISTORY?

WE NEED A COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FUND THAT WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR FAMILIES TO INVEST IN A COLLEGE EDUCATION FOR THEIR CHILDREN WITHOUT MORTGAGING THEMSELVES FOR LIFE.

AND WE MUST CONTINUE TO INVEST IN A FIRST-CLASS TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM AND IN THE KIND OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY THAT HAS MADE MASSACHUSETTS ONE OF THE GREAT PLACES TO LIVE AND BRING UP ONE'S FAMILY.

THIS MUST BE OUR AGENDA FOR THE COMMONWEALTH'S ECONOMIC FUTURE. THIS IS THE AGENDA WHICH WILL NOT ONLY ALLOW MASSACHUSETTS TO KEEP PACE IN THE WORLD ECONOMY BUT TO LEAD IT.

BUT THE CHALLENGE WE NOW FACE GOES FAR BEYOND OUR COMMITMENT TO A STRONG ECONOMY.

WE NOW HAVE IT WITHIN OUR POWER TO ENSURE THAT EVERY CITIZEN--AND I MEAN <u>EVERY</u> CITIZEN CAN CONTRIBUTE TO AND SHARE IN OUR ECONOMIC GOOD FORTUNE. YES, WE WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF LIVING AND PROVIDE ADEQUATE SHELTER FOR THE POOREST OF OUR CITIZENS--FOR THOSE WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN RAVAGED BY FORCES BEYOND THEIR CONTROL.

HERE WE HAVE DONE MUCH ALREADY--DRAMATICALLY INCREASING BENEFITS FOR THOSE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE; BUILDING MORE HOUSING FOR FAMILIES OF LOW AND MODERATE INCOME THAN AT ANY TIME IN OUR HISTORY; EXPANDING THE NUMBER OF STATE SHELTERS FOR THE HOMELESS FROM 2 TO 60; AND IN THE LAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS ALONE HELPING 2600 MASSACHUSETTS FAMILIES MOVE FROM SHELTERS AND HOTELS AND MOTELS INTO PERMANENT HOUSING.

BUT THIS, BY ITSELF, WILL DO LITTLE TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR EVERY FAMILY IN THIS COMMONWEALTH TO EARN ITS PLACE IN THE MASSACHUSETTS SUCCESS STORY.

OUR CHALLENGE NOW IS NOT SIMPLY TO HELP OUR CITIZENS SURVIVE: IT IS TO HELP THEM FLOURISH.

HOW DO WE DO THIS? HOW DO WE CREATE GENUINE OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY CITIZEN AND EVERY FAMILY?

IN TWO VERY FUNDAMENTAL WAYS.

FIRST, WE MUST REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE NOW ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO LIFT THEMSELVES OUT OF POVERTY. THANKS TO THE ET CHOICES PROGRAM, THIRTY THOUSAND WELFARE FAMILIES HAVE MOVED FROM WELFARE TO WORK IN LESS THAN THREE AND A HALF YEARS. TEN THOUSAND MORE WILL BE JOINING THEM THIS YEAR. AND THANKS TO ET, A NEW CONGRESS, I AM CONFIDENT, WILL APPROVE NATIONAL LEGISLATION MAKING ET A POLICY FOR THE NATION.

SECOND, WE MUST BRING DOWN THOSE BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITY THAT HAVE, FOR TOO LONG, MEANT GENERATIONAL POVERTY AND DEPENDENCY FOR TOO MANY.

WHAT ARE THOSE BARRIERS?

FIRST, THE FAILURE OF RESPONSIBILE PARENTS--USUALLY FATHERS--TO PROVIDE THE SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN ARE ENTITLED TO HAVE. THANKS TO THIS LEGISLATURE, WE NOW HAVE THE MEANS AND THE TOOLS TO ENFORCE OUR CHILD SUPPORT LAWS AGGRESSIVELY AND EFFECTIVELY. AND I WANT TO SAY TODAY TO THOSE FATHERS THAT THE DAYS WHEN THE TAXPAYERS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH WERE PREPARED TO ASSUME YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN ARE OVER. YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO THAT CHILD AND ITS MOTHER: AND IF WE HAVE TO GO AFTER YOU AND YOUR WAGES TO ENSURE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IS, WE'LL DO IT.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE--PROBABLY THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT CAUSE OF POVERTY AND DEPENDENCY AND CRIME WE FACE IN THIS COUNTRY. THANKS TO THE WORK OF THE GOVERNOR'S ALLIANCE AGAINST DRUGS AND THE EFFORTS OF THOUSANDS OF CITIZENS ACROSS THIS COMMONWEALTH, NO STATE IS BETTER EQUIPPED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE RESOURCES THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS HAVE NOW GIVEN US. AND WE SHALL DO SO--IN EVERY CITY AND TOWN IN THE COMMONWEALTH. OUR GOAL: DRUG FREE SCHOOLS BY 1990.

TEEN PREGNANCY--NOW A FACT OF LIFE FOR TWENTY THOUSAND YOUNG WOMEN IN THIS COMMONWEALTH. A VIRTUAL GUARANTEE OF POVERTY AND DEPENDENCY IN TOO MANY OF THESE CASES--UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. AND DO SOMETHING WE WILL, AS WE WORK TO PROVIDE THESE YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A BETTER START TO THEIR ADULT LIVES.

SCHOOL DROPOUTS--YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE FALLING BY THE WAYSIDE AS THEY FAIL TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE THE TICKET TO THEIR FUTURES. WE ALREADY KNOW THAT A COMBINATION OF STUDY AND WORK, UNDER THE RIGHT DIRECTION, CAN MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE FOR THESE YOUNGSTERS. AND WE WILL WORK PARTICULARLY CLOSELY WITH THOSE CITIES AND TOWNS THAT BENEFIT MOST FROM OUR EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANTS TO ENSURE THAT EVERY YOUNGSTER IN THIS STATE--EVERY YOUNGSTER--EARNS A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND AN OPEN DOOR TO A BRIGHT FUTURE.

ADULT ILLITERACY--NO CITIZEN OF THIS OR ANY OTHER STATE CAN POSSIBLY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY WE ARE CREATING UNLESS THEY CAN READ AND WRITE AND COMPUTE. WE WILL CREATE A CITIZENS' LITERACY CORPS--ONE THAT I HOPE WILL ATTRACT LITERALLY THOUSANDS OF CITIZENS WHO WANT TO HELP OPEN THE DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY TO THOUSANDS MORE. WE'LL MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO ENLIST THE TALENT AND IDEALISM OF OUR COLLEGE

STUDENTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS WHO CAN BRING THEIR OWN SPECIAL BRAND OF ENTHUSIASM AND IDEALISM TO THIS EFFORT.

CHILD SUPPORT.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE.

TEEN PREGNANCY.

SCHOOL DROPOUTS.

ADULT ILLITERACY.

THESE ARE THE BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITY. THESE ARE THE BARRIERS TO OUR DREAM OF A SOCIETY IN WHICH THERE IS GENUINE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL.

AND THESE ARE THE BARRIERS THAT IN MASSACHUSETTS WE WILL STRIVE TO BRING DOWN. TOTALLY. PERMANENTLY.

WE BEGIN THAT TASK A WEEK FROM SATURDAY AT AN ALL-DAY CONFERENCE HERE AT THE STATE HOUSE--A CONFERENCE WHERE LEGISLATORS AND MAYORS AND SELECTMEN AND CITIZENS FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE COMMONWEALTH WILL COME TOGETHER TO EXCHANGE IDEAS, EXPLORE NEW APPROACHES, LEARN FROM EACH OTHER HOW WE CAN BRING DOWN THE BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITY.

FOR WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IS NOT SOME GRAND SCHEME DEVELOPED IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OR IN THE LEGISLATURE. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE WORK AND LEADERSHIP OF CITIZENS IN EVERY CITY AND TOWN--TACKLING THESE PROBLEMS IN COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS, IN SCHOOLS AND WORKPLACES--WITH PLENTY OF SUPPORT FROM THOSE OF US AT THE STATE HOUSE.

I HOPE THAT EACH OF YOU--AND EVERY CITIZEN OF THE COMMONWEALTH--WILL THINK ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTION YOU CAN MAKE, THE ROLE YOU CAN PLAY IN THIS EFFORT.

IT MIGHT BE SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS SUGGESTING TO YOUR BOSS THAT YOUR COMPANY HIRE ONE OF OUR ET GRADUATES. OR SOMETHING AS CHALLENGING AS

VOLUNTEERING AN EVENING A WEEK TO HELP A MEMBER OF YOUR COMMUNITY TO READ AND WRITE. BUT WHATEVER IT IS, I HOPE THAT EVERY CITIZEN OF MASSACHUSETTS WILL JOIN IN A GRASS ROOTS CAMPAIGN TO OPEN UP THAT DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY TO EVERY MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY AND OF OUR COMMONWEALTH.

JOIN US THIS NEW YEAR AS WE SET OUT ON OUR MARCH ALONG THE ROAD OF OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL OUR CITIZENS...A ROAD THAT LEADS TO A MASSACHUSETTS WHERE OUR SCHOOLS ARE FREE OF DRUGS...A ROAD THAT LEADS TO A MASSACHUSETTS WHERE EVERY ADULT CITIZEN CAN READ AND WRITE...A ROAD THAT LEADS TO A MASSACHUSETTS IN WHICH EVERY YOUNGSTER GRADUATES FROM HIGH SCHOOL...A ROAD THAT LEADS TO A MASSACHUSETTS IN WHICH OUR TEENAGERS--AND ALL PARENTS--UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIONS...A ROAD THAT LEADS TO A MASSACHUSETTS IN WHICH EVERY SINGLE WELFARE FAMILY CAN LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN IT CAN WALK OUT INTO THE BRIGHT SUNSHINE OF OPPORTUNITY WITH A GOOD JOB AT DECENT WAGES IN A SAFE AND ATTRACTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD...IN WHICH THE MEMBERS OF EVERY FAMILY IN THIS COMMONWEALTH CAN SAY TO THEMSELVES AND THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS, "THERE'S A FUTURE FOR US NOW--AND WITH IT NEW HOPE THAT OUR CHILDREN WILL HAVE AN EVEN BETTER LIFE FOR THEMSELVES."

IF THERE IS ONE THING WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED OVER THE PAST DECADE, IT IS THAT WE HAVE THE WILL AND THE MEANS AND THE ENERGY TO CREATE THIS SOCIETY--THE KIND OF SOCIETY THAT STANDS FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY <u>AND</u> ECONOMIC JUSTICE.

IT WAS DANIEL WEBSTER WHO CHALLENGED AN EARLIER GENERATION OF BAY STATERS TO "CALL FORTH ITS INDUSTRY, DEVELOP ITS RESOURCES", AND TO SEE WHETHER THEY IN THEIR TIME "MIGHT NOT PERFORM SOMETHING WORTHY TO BE REMEMBERED."

LET THAT BE THE CHALLENGE FOR THIS GENERATION OF BAY STATERS. LET HISTORY RECORD THAT WE DID SOMETHING WORTHY TO BE REMEMBERED. LET US COMMIT OURSELVES HERE AND NOW THAT IT WILL BE OUR GENERATION WHICH BRINGS DOWN THE BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITY--OUR GENERATION THAT WILL MAKE REAL THE DREAM OF OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL.

I'd like to say something to all of you in a very personal way.

I've got some awesome decisions to make in the next few months. And they are decisions that I intend to make only after much thought and much reflection.

But nobody knows better than the Governor of the Commonwealth that I would not even be remotely contemplating a campaign for national office if it were not for the extraordinary success we have achieved together.

So, in a very real sense, whatever decision I will make will grow out of the sense of partnership and mutual trust that we have created these past four years.

I want to thank all of you who have given me much wise advice and counsel during the past few weeks.

And whatever decision I make, I want you to know that being the governor of Massachusetts has been the richest, the most fulfilling and the most enjoyable experience anyone in public life could possibly ask for.